

## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, Craig E. Boutilier and Holger H. Hoos, declare:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as follows:

Craig E. Boutilier  
23 Brownstone Lane  
Toronto, Ontario, M8X2Z6 Canada  
Citizenship: Canadian

Holger H. Hoos  
1201-1177 Pacific Boulevard  
Vancouver, British Columbia, V6Z2R8 Canada  
Citizenship: German

We believe ourselves to be the original, first and joint inventors of the improvement in a "Stochastic Local Search for Combinatorial Auctions" described and claimed in the annexed specification.

We have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification, including the claims.

This application claims the benefit of earlier filed United States Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/221,551, filed July 28, 2000, and entitled "Stochastic Local Search for Combinatorial Auctions".

We do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States before our invention thereof; or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application; or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to this application.

Said invention has not been patented or been made the subject of an inventor's certificate in any country foreign to the United States on an application filed by us or our legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application.

We acknowledge our duty to disclose information of which we are aware which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

No application for patent or inventor's certificate thereon has been filed by us or our legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States.

We declare further that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

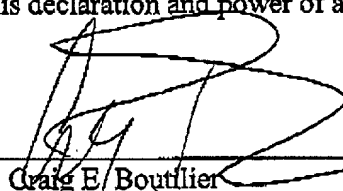
We hereby appoint Randall A. Notzen, Registration No. 36,882; William H. Logsdon, Registration No. 22,132; Russell D. Orkin, Registration No. 25,363; David C. Hanson, Registration No. 23,024; Richard L. Byrne, Registration No. 28,498; Frederick B. Ziesenheim, Registration No. 19,438; Kent E. Baldauf, Registration No. 25,826; Barbara E. Johnson, Registration No. 31,198; Paul M. Reznick, Registration No. 33,059; John W. McIlvaine, Registration No. 34,219; Blynn L. Shideler, Registration No. 35,034; Julie W. Meder, Registration No. 36,216; Lester N. Fortney, Registration No. 38,141; James G. Porcelli, Registration No. 33,757; and Kent E. Baldauf, Jr., Registration No. 36,082, Christian E. Schuster, Registration No. 43,908; Dean E. Geibel, Registration No. 42,570; Thomas J. Clinton, Registration No. 40,561, Nathan J. Prepelka, Registration No. 43,016; Jessica M. Sosenko, Registration No. 47,102; Kirk M. Miles, Registration No. 37,891; and J. Matthew Pritchard, Registration No. 46,228, whose post-office address is 700 Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1818, Telephone No. 412-471-8815, my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, to amend the specification, to appeal in case of rejection, as they may deem advisable, to receive the patent when granted and generally to do all matters and things needful in the premises, as fully and to all intents and purposes as we could do.

**All correspondence and telephone calls should be addressed to Randall A. Notzen, Esq.**

We hereby subscribe our names to this declaration and power of attorney.

Date July 30, 2001

Inventor

  
Craig E. Boutlier

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Inventor

Holger H. Hoos

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**All correspondence and telephone calls should be addressed to Randall A. Notzen, Esq.**

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Date \_\_\_\_\_ Inventor \_\_\_\_\_

Craig E. Boutilier

Date 2001/07/28

Inventor \_\_\_\_\_

Holger H. Hoos